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ABSTRACT

It is a common misconception that the unemployed segment of the population is made up solely of persons who have lost their jobs. In fact, such persons constitute less than half the jobless total (43 percent in 1972). Job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants are also important components of the unemployed. Job losers account for the greatest percentage of unemployed adult men, but reentrants make up the largest portion of unemployed adult women, while new entrants and reentrants account for the bulk of teenage unemployment. (Contains numerous tables and graphs.) (Author/MS)

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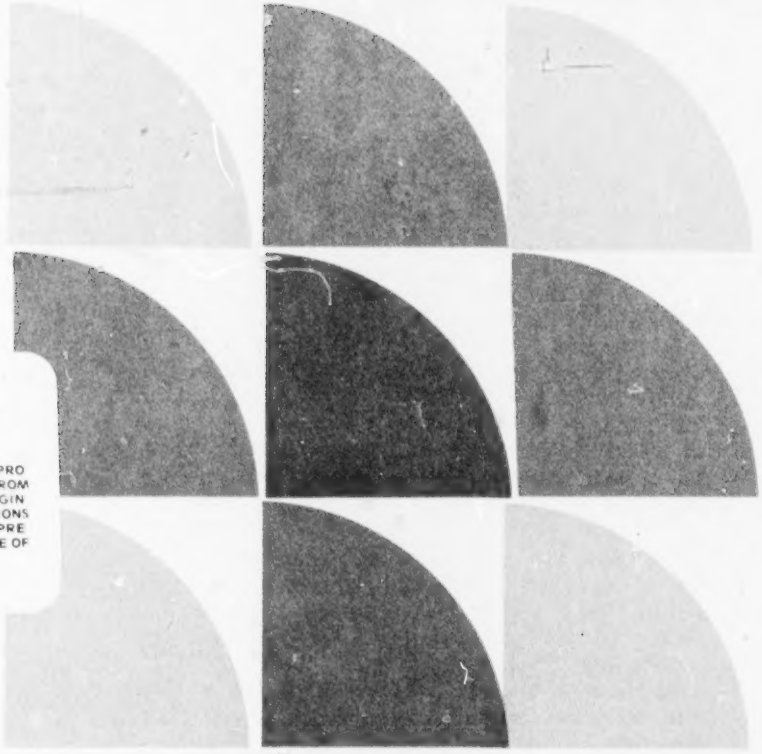
Job Losers, Leavers, and Entrants: Traits and Trends

Special Labor Force Report 157

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
1973



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Job losers, leavers, and entrants: traits and trends

Special Labor Force Report shows that job losers, mostly men, make up less than half of the unemployed; jobless women and teenagers are mostly entrants into the job market

CURTIS L. GILROY

ECONOMISTS TRADITIONALLY have distinguished four types of unemployment: seasonal, cyclical, structural, and frictional.[1] Demographic survey data, such as those derived from the Current Population Survey, cannot provide a neat breakdown of unemployment according to these four categories, because the unemployed persons (or survey enumerators) simply do not know to which one they belong. There is, however, a classification of the unemployed derived from this survey which is useful to the researcher and public policymaker in their attempts to measure and analyze more accurately the utilization of the Nation's manpower along lines that are somewhat analagous to the conventional (theoretical) breakdown.

Although this relatively new classification does not divide the unemployed according to seasonal, cyclical, structural, and frictional factors, which may be considered as the "institutional" obstacles that a worker must overcome in jobseeking, it does have elements that somewhat overlap the conventional classification. The new classification tells us how people enter the unemployment stream. It defines the unemployment status of the worker in terms of whether he has: (1) lost his last job (job loser); (2) quit his last job (job leaver); (3) reentered the labor force after a period of absence (reentrant); or (4) is looking for his first job (new entrant).[2]

Comprehensive monthly data on these four types of unemployment have been collected since January 1967, and it is the main purpose of this article to examine trends and characteristics of the unemployed during the past 6 years by categories which the Bureau of Labor Statistics refers to as "unemployment by reason."[3]

Composition and trends

Although many persons attribute unemployment exclusively to job loss, the data on the reasons for unemployment do not support this view. While loss of job is the predominant cause of unemployment among adult men, the major reasons among younger workers and women typically stem from their recent entrance or reentrance into the labor market.

The data on reasons for unemployment may be studied in two conventional ways: by disaggregating the total unemployment rate into the component "rates" attributable to each of the reasons,[4] and by looking at the percentage distribution of the unemployed persons by reason. These methods are illustrated in table 1. Although the component "rates" approach has been emphasized in previous studies of the subject, the more logical breakdown is the percentage distribution, and it will receive greater attention in this study.[5]

The composition of the unemployed grouped by reason for unemployment is shown in chart 1 on a monthly and seasonally adjusted basis for 1967–72. This is a particularly interesting period from an economic standpoint, containing, chronologically, the tail end of a period of rapid economic expansion, a cyclical downturn, and a subsequent recovery. Job losers constituted about one-third of all the unemployed in 1968, a year of economic prosperity, whereas they made up close to one-half of the total in 1971, when unemployment was considerably higher. During the 1969–70 downturn, when total unemployment was rising sharply, job loss was clearly the predominant reason[6] as businesses, forced to either reduce production or utilize a less labor-intensive production function, discharged many workers.

Although the number of workers who left their jobs increased slightly during the cyclical downturn, their percentage of total unemployment fell markedly

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as a result of a large increase of job losers. This decline is attributable to the workers' reluctance to leave jobs voluntarily in times of job scarcity; and it is in line with the behavior of the quit rate in manufacturing, which traditionally declines when the demand for labor slackens.[7] As economic conditions improved (in 1972), the propensity to quit a job and search for another increased.

Unemployment also rose among reentrants during the cyclical downturn and increased somewhat among new entrants. However, these increases did not match that of job losers, and their proportion of the total unemployment declined during the recession.

Chart 2 traces the number of unemployed persons, by reason for unemployment, over the 6-year span; each component moved generally in the same direction during the cyclical swings, but the job-loser component was by far the most sensitive. Unemployment by reason varied not only yearly but also seasonally. Chart 3 illustrates the seasonal patterns in terms of the monthly deviations from their annual averages.

Much of the seasonal variation in the distribution of total unemployment is attributable to the activity of the entrant groups, particularly new entrants. In the summer months, for example, many persons enter the labor force for the first time upon leaving school, and the new entrants' percentage of the unemployed rises sharply. Many of these youths seek only temporary or part-time employment that would defray school expenses, but many others seek permanent jobs. Because of their age and lack of previous work experience, it is more difficult for many of them to secure employment initially. New entrants typically make up less than 10 percent of the unemployed in January but more than 20 percent in June.

Table 1. Reasons for unemployment of persons 16 years and over, annual averages, 1967–72

Year	Total unemployed	Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
1967	100.0	40.9	14.6	31.4	13.2
1968	100.0	38.0	15.3	32.3	14.4
1969	100.0	35.9	15.4	34.0	14.3
1970	100.0	44.3	13.5	29.9	12.1
1971	100.0	46.3	11.8	29.4	12.5
1972	100.0	44.3	13.1	28.8	13.9
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE					
1967	3.8	1.6	.6	1.2	.5
1968	3.6	1.3	.5	1.2	.5
1969	3.5	1.2	.5	1.2	.5
1970	4.9	2.2	.6	1.5	.6
1971	5.9	2.8	.7	1.8	.7
1972	5.6	2.4	.7	1.7	.8

NOTE: The sum of items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

The proportion of job losers also varies significantly throughout the year, primarily because of high job loss in the winter months when outdoor work is curtailed, and low job loss during the summer when employment reaches peak levels. The opposite seasonal tendencies of unemployment stemming from labor force entry are, of course, consistent with this seasonal pattern.

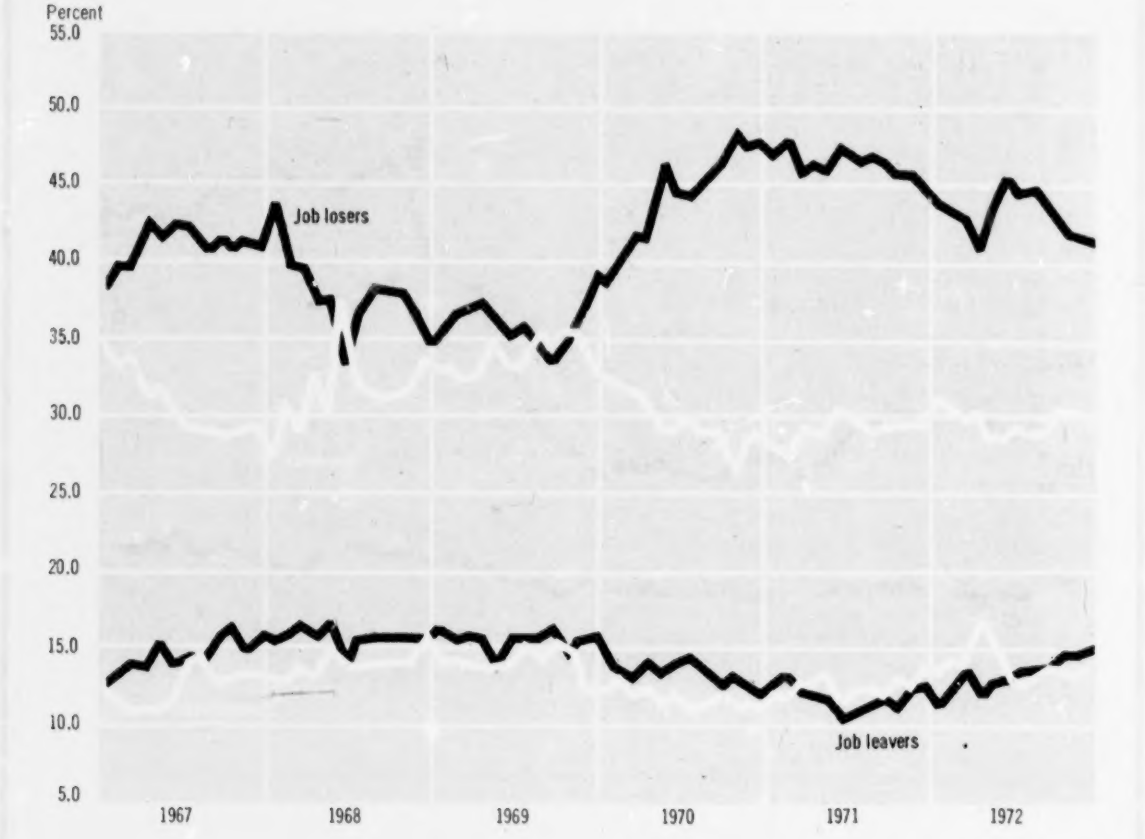
While exhibiting relatively little seasonal variation, job leavers tend to predominate among the unemployed in late summer. This is typified by the return of many young workers to school, at which point some of them immediately begin the search for part-time employment.

Age-sex differences

There are considerable differences in the reasons for unemployment among the various age groups, reflecting increased labor force attachment and a concomitant decrease in the frequency of job changing as a person grows older. In 1972, for example, over 40 percent of the unemployed teenagers but less than 5 percent of the unemployed adults were new entrants into the labor force. (See table 2.) In fact, the proportion of unemployment attributed to new entrants, both men and women, is greatest at ages 16–17 and falls off sharply in each succeeding age group. In terms of sex differences, new entrants account for a greater proportion of unemployment among women than among men. This may partly be explained by the probability that many young men may have already been employed (at a full-time job of 2 weeks' duration or more) before reaching age 16.

The percentage of unemployment accounted for by labor force reentrants is, generally, almost twice as high among adult women as among adult men. Women made up almost half of the reentrant unemployed in 1972. There are several reasons for this. Most reentrants are those who return to the labor market after a period of absence devoted to child-rearing. Divorce and separation also force many women to reenter the labor force. Other women may be enticed to return to the job market because of the increasing opportunities that coincide with the lessening of discriminatory barriers.

Chart 1. Distribution of unemployed by reason, 1967–72, seasonally adjusted

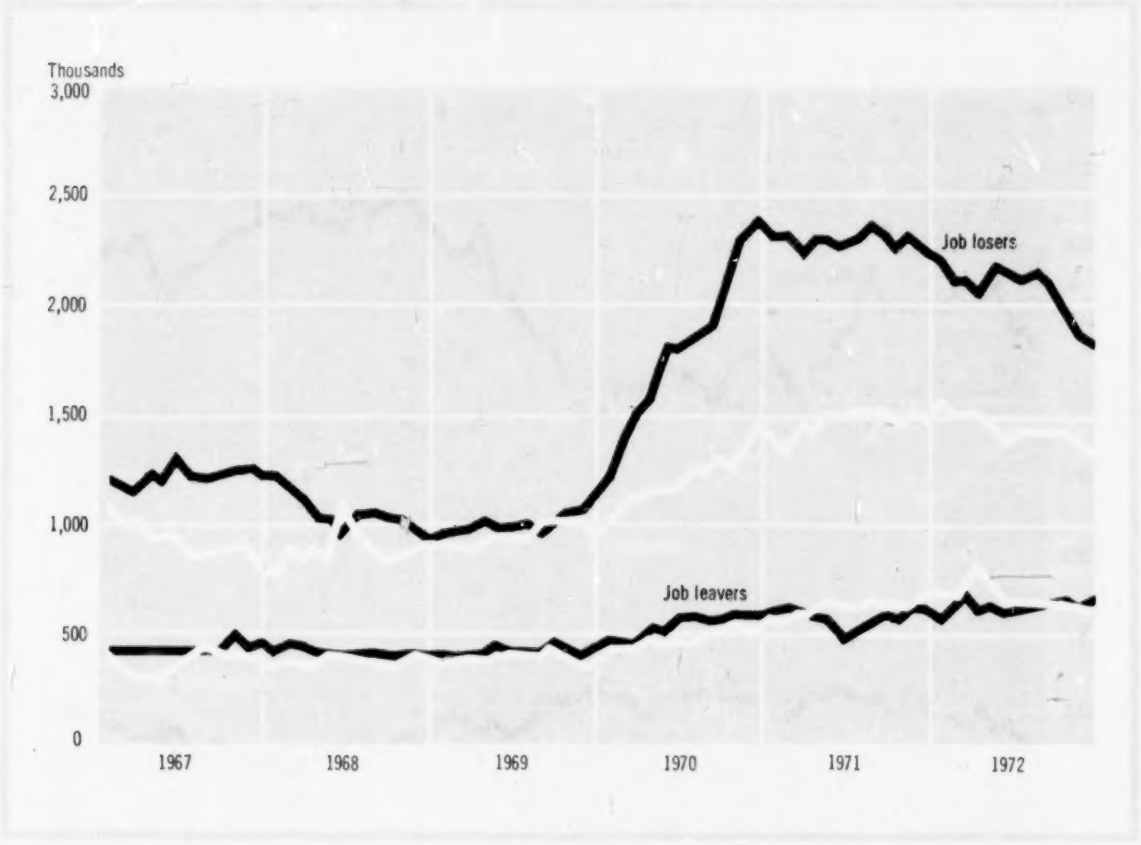


Job leavers accounted for not more than 20 percent of the unemployed among the different age-sex groups. The proportion of this category is generally highest among young workers, many of whom have not yet settled in a career and do not have any major family responsibilities. Persons in the age group of 20–24 have the highest proportion of unemployment stemming from job leaving, a situation related to the job switching that goes on until these youths find their niche in the labor market.

Unemployment caused by job loss—either a temporary layoff or job termination—is most often beyond the worker's control and is usually attributable to such factors as business failure, decreased workload, the ending of seasonal activities, shifts in product line, and the like. It may also result from dismissal for cause. Job-loss unemployment is particularly prevalent among adult men, whose earnings are normally the primary means of support of their families. In 1972, 60 percent of the unemployed adult men had lost their jobs. Among women, who are more likely than men to become unemployed due to reentry into the job market, job loss accounted for 40 percent of unemployment; by contrast, fewer than 1 out of every 5 jobless teenagers were job losers. The problem of job loss becomes particularly acute in terms of household relationship: of the 1.7 million unemployed heads of families in 1972, nearly two-thirds had lost their job.

The proportion of unemployment resulting from

Chart 2. Unemployment by reason, 1967–72, seasonally adjusted



loss of job tends to increase with advancing age. This largely reflects the workers' increased attachment to the labor force as they grow older, as well as the concentration of job leaving and labor force entries (including reentries) in the younger age groups.

Negro-white differences

Data on reasons for unemployment emphasize the disproportionate burden of joblessness borne by Negroes. The unemployment rate of Negroes has traditionally been twice as high as the rate for whites.[8] The distributions of unemployed whites and Negroes by reason for unemployment are not very dissimilar, as shown by table 3. The only difference is that a slightly greater proportion of unemployed whites than of Negroes have lost their last job and, correspondingly, a greater percentage of Negro unemployment is attributable to initial entry or reentry into the labor force.

Over the 1969–71 period, when unemployment was growing rapidly, the compositions of the increases for whites and Negroes showed much similarity. Over 70 percent of the increase in unemployed adult males, white and Negro, were job losers. Among adult women, both black and white, about half of the additions to unemployment stemmed from job loss, and roughly one-third were caused by reentries into the labor force. Men entrants also accounted for almost half the increase in both white and Negro teenage unemployment.

The percentage distribution of unemployed persons by reason does not reflect the fact that Negroes are more likely to be unemployed than whites. But the component unemployment rates by reason do: they are substantially larger for Negroes than for whites, as table 4 shows for 1972 and chart 4 for

the entire 1967–72 period. The ratio of such rates for Negroes to the corresponding rates for whites indicate the relative incidence of unemployment for the two groups in terms of causes of unemployment.

During the 1967–72 period, however, there was a substantial cyclical variation in the Negro-white ratios of the by-reason components. All of them declined considerably between 1969 and 1971. This decline was consistent with the general observation that, although Negro unemployment rose sharply during this period, the *relative* unemployment position of Negroes improved somewhat vis-a-vis that of whites.

Chart 3. Seasonal adjustment factors of unemployed persons by reason for unemployment, 1972

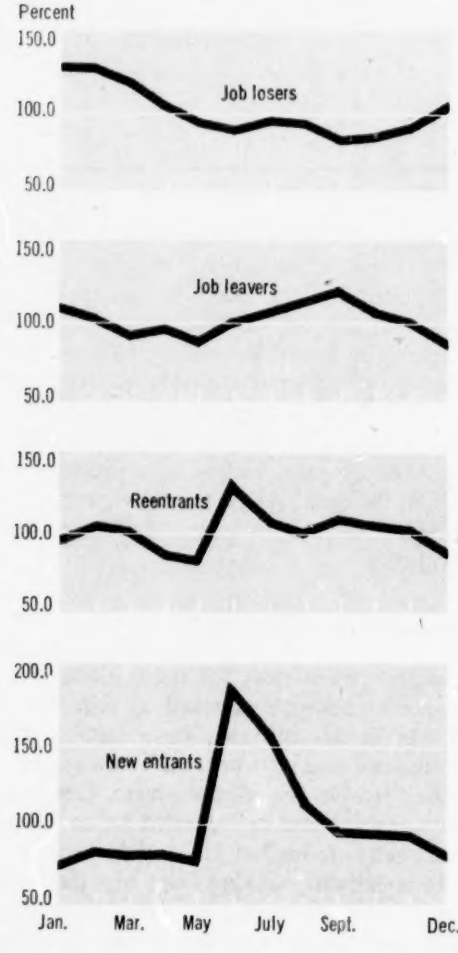


Table 2. Percent distribution of unemployed persons, by reason for unemployment, sex, and age, annual averages, 1372

Sex and age	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Job losers	Job leavers	Re-entrants	New entrants
Men	2,635	100.0	52.2	12.1	24.2	11.6
16–19 years	707	100.0	23.8	10.4	31.1	34.7
16–17 years	355	100.0	13.8	5.9	31.1	49.1
18–19 years	352	100.0	33.8	14.9	31.2	20.1
20 years and over	1,929	100.0	62.6	12.7	21.6	3.1
20–24 years	619	100.0	44.6	15.7	32.5	7.3
25–34 years	456	100.0	66.8	15.3	16.1	1.7
35–44 years	282	100.0	74.2	11.8	12.5	1.4
45–54 years	273	100.0	76.3	9.1	13.9	.6
55–64 years	226	100.0	77.1	6.1	16.7	.1
65 years and over	73	100.0	48.9	7.8	42.6	.6
Women	2,205	100.0	32.4	14.4	36.6	16.7
16–19 years	595	100.0	13.2	8.3	29.0	48.5
16–17 years	274	100.0	7.0	4.9	24.9	64.2
18–19 years	321	100.0	18.4	13.1	33.4	35.1
20 years and over	1,610	100.0	39.4	16.2	39.4	4.9
20–24 years	497	100.0	27.8	20.4	42.2	9.6
25–34 years	405	100.0	35.2	17.2	44.2	3.4
35–44 years	293	100.0	43.7	14.6	39.2	2.5
45–54 years	237	100.0	51.8	12.0	33.5	2.7
55–64 years	140	100.0	59.4	10.4	27.5	2.8
65 years and over	38	100.0	52.0	11.9	34.6	1.5

NOTE: The sum of items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

The historically higher job-loss rate for Negro men can be attributed, among other things, to their greater concentration in relatively unskilled occupations in industries where seasonal and cyclical fluctuations in employment are more common. Although the Negro worker is more likely to lose his job than his white counterpart, a breakdown of job-loss data shows, interestingly, that his likelihood of being laid off is about equal to the white worker's, whereas he is twice as likely to lose his job by termination. Negro new entrant and reentrant rates are more than double those of comparable white workers, both among teenagers, and adults, reflecting in part the greater concentration of Negroes in seasonal and relatively unsteady work. The higher rates of Negro jobs leavers indicate the propensity of Negro men and women to quit their jobs with greater frequency before settling in a permanent one. This happens, in part, because a greater proportion of the Negro than of the white labor force consists of persons from the younger age groups, which are characterized by substantial job shifting.

Educational attainment

A worker's level of education plays a role in determining his employment status. Workers with

Table 3. Percent distribution of unemployed persons, by reason for unemployment, color, sex, and age, annual averages, 1967 and 1972

Color, sex, and age	All unemployed	Job losers			Job leavers	Entrants		
		Total	On layoff	Other		Total	Reentrants	New entrants
1967								
White, total	100.0	41.7	14.2	27.5	14.7	43.7	31.3	12.4
Both sexes, 16–19 years	100.0	17.3	4.3	13.0	11.4	71.1	34.9	36.2
Men, 20 years and over	100.0	63.9	20.9	43.1	15.6	23.5	21.2	2.3
Women, 20 years and over	100.0	37.6	15.2	22.5	16.3	46.1	41.8	4.3
Negro and other races, total	100.0	37.8	8.9	28.8	14.2	49.0	33.0	16.0
Both sexes, 16–19 years	100.0	17.8	2.4	15.4	9.6	72.6	33.5	39.0
Men, 20 years and over	100.0	63.4	15.5	47.9	15.5	20.6	18.6	2.0
Women, 20 years and over	100.0	34.2	9.1	25.2	16.9	49.2	41.3	7.9
1972								
White, total	100.0	43.0	13.0	31.0	13.6	42.4	29.1	13.3
Both sexes, 16–19 years	100.0	19.6	4.7	14.9	10.5	69.9	28.9	41.0
Men, 20 years and over	100.0	62.9	18.2	44.7	13.0	24.1	21.2	2.8
Women, 20 years and over	100.0	37.9	15.4	22.5	16.7	43.6	39.2	4.3
Negro and other races, total	100.0	39.7	7.7	32.0	11.4	48.9	32.8	16.1
Both sexes, 16–19 years	100.0	16.7	1.7	15.0	7.6	75.7	34.8	40.8
Men, 20 years and over	100.0	61.2	12.4	48.8	11.2	27.6	23.3	4.3
Women, 20 years and over	100.0	38.1	8.1	30.0	14.7	47.3	40.2	7.0

NOTE: The sum of items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

substantial amounts of education are less likely to become unemployed, particularly through loss of a job, than those with less education.

The educational levels of jobless workers grouped by reason for their joblessness are shown in table 5 for the years 1967 and 1972. Of particular note is the relatively low level of educational attainment of job losers. For every color-sex group, a worker who had lost his job generally had less education than one who had left his job voluntarily or was a labor force entrant.

However, these educational differences narrowed considerably between 1967 and 1972, not only because of an overall improvement in workers' educational attainment but also because of some other factors. First, in a tight labor market, such as that of the 1967–69 period, employers are more willing to reach further down the hiring queue to obtain the needed manpower. Those not hired and those who lost their jobs during these times are the least educated and least qualified. When the demand for labor slackens drastically, as it did in 1970 and 1971, employers are forced to lay off many qualified workers in addition to the least educated ones. For example, many professional and technical workers lost their jobs as a result of the severe cutbacks in aerospace, electronics, and other defense-related industries during the 1969–71 economic downturn. This kind of development has the effect of raising the average educational level of job losers as a group. Second, seniority is an important consideration for employers in laying off workers, and this qualifies the claim of some writers that workers most likely to be retained are those with higher levels of formal education. Although these factors were probably working together, the data on educational attainment are not sufficiently detailed to permit a test of either one individually.

Occupation and industry

Unemployment rates for occupations and industries are traditionally watched as economic indicators, but in this role they have certain limitations that become crucial when the rates are viewed in terms of reasons for unemployment. One is that the occupation and industry reported for an unemployed worker refers to his last job, rather than the one he or she is currently seeking. Similarly, the unemployment of those reentering the labor force[9] may not reflect the current situation in the occupation or industry in which they had previously worked. For

example, even though the entrant unemployment rates for agricultural and construction workers are at their highest in December, it is probable that few of them would be looking for farm or construction jobs, even though that was the last job they had previously held.

A more firm attachment to an industry or occupation can be assumed for unemployed job losers. This is so because the job-loss data reflect the degree of unemployment due to recent employment changes which occur in occupations and industries. A person who begins to search for new employment immediately after losing his job is more likely to focus his search on the occupation or industry of previous employment than is a person whose last job was followed by a period of withdrawal from the labor force. Without data on the reasons for unemployment, one cannot distinguish easily between the two cases.

High cyclic unemployment is presumed to be closely associated with large proportions of job loss. But this is not the case in all occupations and industries. Operatives and nonfarm laborers, who usually have a high incidence of job loss, had relatively high unemployment rates, but craftsmen and kindred workers, whose unemployment stems largely from job loss, had a relatively low rate. (See table 6.) Job loss in 1972 was the predominant cause of unemployment among blue-collar workers, who are heavily concentrated in construction and manufacturing. In the white-collar and service occupations, however, job loss accounted for only two-fifths or less of unemployment. Since these two are expanding sectors, attracting many young workers and adult women, the reentrant class represents the largest jobless group there.

Additional divergences between the unemployment rate and the percent of unemployed job losers were found when the unemployment data for 1972 were distributed by industry. Job losers made up the largest proportion of the unemployed both in the construction industry, which has a high unemployment rate, and in the transportation and public utilities industry, which has a relatively low rate. The high rate in wholesale and retail trade was due primarily to a large number of reentrants. There appears to be no direct relationship, then, between the proportion of unemployment accounted for by job loss and the unemployment rate of specific occupation or industry groups.

As might be expected, those occupations and industries within which employment opportunities have been expanding have a relatively low rate of job loss. This is particularly true of the service-producing industries, which are also less affected by cyclical swings. Unemployment in these industries is characterized by relatively high entrant and job-leaver rates. Since these industries attract many young workers and adult women, who are often searching only for part-time or temporary employment and who are more prone to leaving one job for another, their proportions of unemployed entrants and job leavers are high. By contrast, in the nonfarm goods-producing industries, where the work

Table 4. Component unemployment rates, by reason for unemployment, color, sex, and age, annual averages, 1972

Color, sex, and age	All unemployed	Job losers			Job leavers	Entrants		
		Total	On layoff	Other		Total	Reentrants	New entrants
White, total	5.0	2.3	0.7	1.6	0.7	2.1	1.5	0.7
Both sexes, 16–19 years	14.2	2.9	.7	2.1	1.5	9.9	4.1	5.8
Men, 20 years and over	3.6	2.3	.7	1.6	.5	.9	.8	.1
Women, 20 years and over	4.9	1.9	.6	1.3	.8	2.1	1.9	.2
Negro and other races, total	10.0	4.0	.8	3.2	1.1	4.9	3.3	1.6
Both sexes, 16–19 years	33.5	5.6	.6	5.0	2.6	25.3	11.7	13.7
Men, 20 years and over	6.8	4.1	.8	3.3	.8	1.9	1.6	.3
Women, 20 years and over	8.8	3.3	.7	2.6	1.3	4.2	3.5	.6
RATIO OF NEGRO TO WHITE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES								
Total	2.0	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.3
Both sexes, 16–19 years	2.3	2.0	.9	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.9	2.4
Men, 20 years and over	1.9	1.8	1.1	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.0	3.0
Women, 20 years and over	1.8	1.7	.9	2.0	1.6	2.0	1.8	3.0

NOTE: The sum of items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

Chart 4. Negro/white unemployment ratio, by reason, annual averages 1967–72

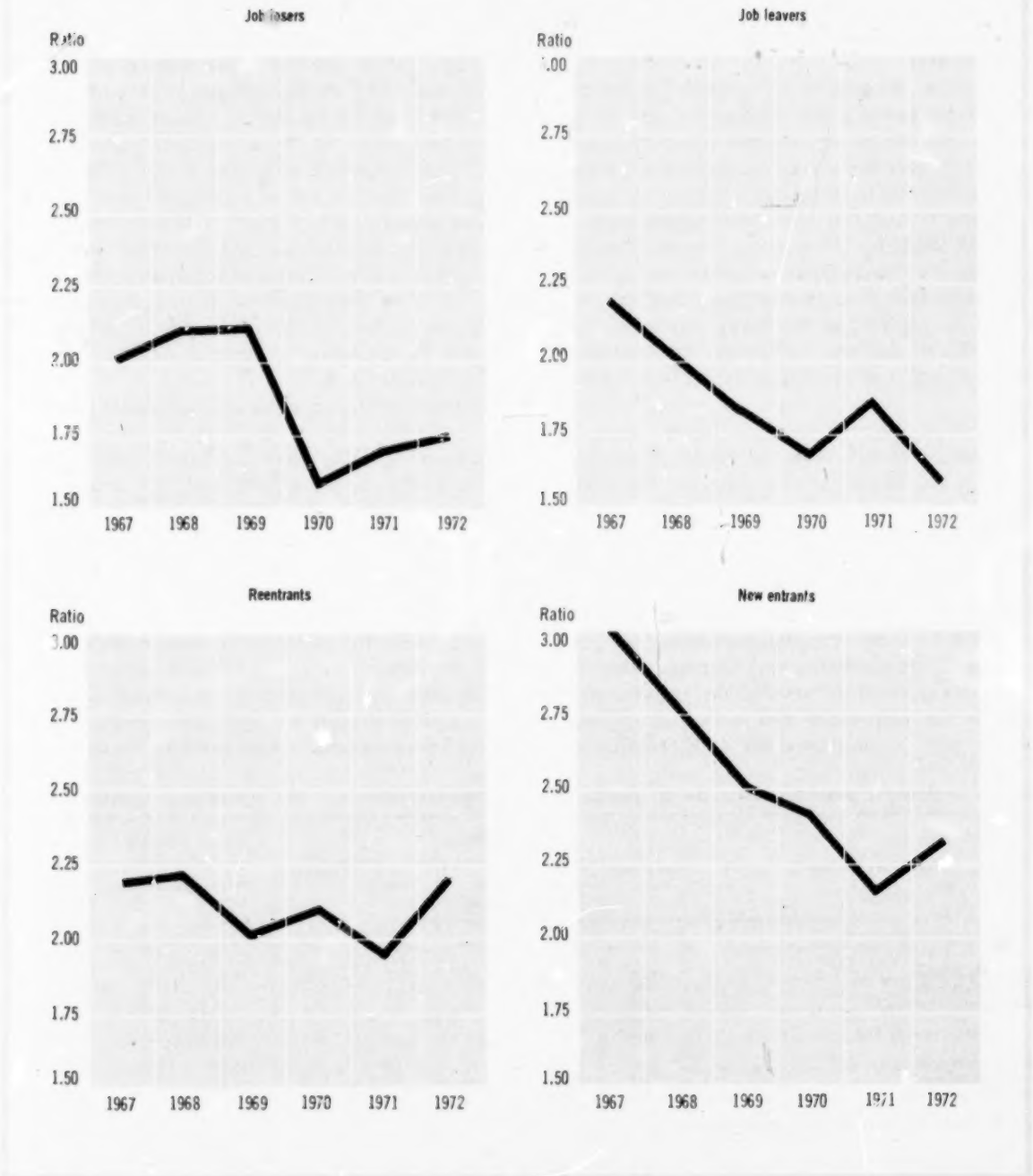


Table 5. Educational attainment of unemployed persons 20 years and over, by reason for unemployment, sex, and color, annual averages, 1967 and 1972.

Sex and color	Median years of school completed				
	All unemployed	Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
1967					
Men	11.1	10.3	12.0	12.3	12.7
White	11.4	10.5	12.1	12.5	12.8
Negro and other races	10.0	9.6	10.3	10.7	12.2
Women	12.1	11.4	12.3	12.2	12.1
White	12.2	11.6	12.3	12.3	12.1
Negro and other races	11.2	10.6	12.0	11.1	12.1
1972					
Men	12.3	12.1	12.4	12.7	12.8
White	12.3	12.1	12.4	12.9	12.8
Negro and other races	11.8	11.3	12.1	12.1	12.6
Women	12.4	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.4
White	12.4	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.5
Negro and other races	12.1	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.2

force is more stable and opportunities for temporary jobs more scarce, job losers become a large component of total unemployment.[10]

Duration of unemployment

The majority of unemployed workers remain jobless for relatively short periods of time. In 1972, for example, half were unemployed less than 5 weeks, and only one-fifth remained jobless 15 weeks or more. Over the 1969–71 period, the duration of unemployment rose considerably. In fact, of the 2.1-million increase in unemployment during this period, three-quarters was accounted for by those jobless 5 weeks or more. The increase in the duration of unemployment, however, varied markedly according to the reason for joblessness.

Among job losers, who generally experience longer periods of unemployment than do job leavers and the entrant groups, the proportion of those unemployed in excess of 4 weeks rose from 40 to 55 percent over the 1969–71 period. The proportion of job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants jobless 5 weeks or longer also increased, but by lesser proportions. This was expected, since many job losers are male workers of prime age who have a stronger commitment to the labor force. As pointed out earlier, job losers as a group also have lower levels of educational attainment, which in many cases may be responsible for longer spells of unemployment. The entrant groups, on the other hand, have the alternative—often exercised—of dropping out of the labor force and thus terminating their period of unemployment.

Among both adult men and women, job losers generally account for most of the long term unemployed. In 1972, for example, job losers made up 70 and 60 percent, respectively, of the adult men and women unemployed 27 weeks or more. (See table 7.) Moreover, the proportion of unemployment caused by loss of jobs increased with each succeeding duration period. In marked contrast, among teenagers in 1972, the proportion of entrants to the total of the group's unemployed tended to rise with successive longer periods of joblessness, accounting for over 75 percent of those jobless 27 weeks and over, while the proportion of job-loss unemployment decreased as the duration rose.

Cyclical effects

The extent to which changes in labor market conditions affect the by-reason categories of unemployment is of considerable importance. For this purpose, the aggregate unemployment rate may be considered a surrogate variable for the business cycle, representing changing levels of economic activity. As the aggregate unemployment rate changes over time, the component rates by reason will generally move in the same direction, since their sum equals the total rate. What is of particular interest, however, is how the proportions of the groups change with the change of employment conditions. Since some component rates would not rise at the same pace at which the total unemployment rate increases, the distribution of the unemployed by reason for unemployment would also be altered, with the proportion of the job losers tending to grow and that of job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants tending to decline.

In order to quantify the impact of the business cycle on the composition of unemployment, several sets of simple regression equations were run. The rates or the percent distribution of the unemployed by reason were the dependent variables (Y), and the overall unemployment rate was the independent variable (X). Monthly observations covering the 1967–72 period were used.[11]

The results of a number of regressions appear in table 8. As shown, an increase in the aggregate unemployment rate is accompanied by rises in the rates associated with each of the reasons (equations 1–4). Based on the regression equations, an increase of 1 percentage point in the total rate would

Table 6. Unemployment by reason, industry, and occupation, annual averages, 1972

Industry and occupation group	Unemployed		Percent distribution			
	Number (in thousands)	Rate	Total	Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants
INDUSTRY						
Total experienced unemployed	4,164	4.8	100.0	50.1	15.3	34.7
Mining	19	3.2	100.0	69.8	16.9	13.3
Construction	446	10.3	100.0	72.4	7.4	20.3
Manufacturing	1,147	5.6	100.0	62.8	12.7	24.5
Durable goods	649	5.4	100.0	66.4	11.9	21.7
Nondurable goods	497	5.7	100.0	58.1	13.7	28.2
Transportation and public utilities	217	4.2	100.0	56.4	14.6	29.1
Wholesale and retail trade	985	6.4	100.0	41.4	19.3	39.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate	137	3.4	100.0	39.6	22.2	38.2
Services	631	5.1	100.0	39.9	18.4	41.7
Agriculture	99	2.7	100.0	47.5	10.6	41.9
Government	405	2.9	100.0	31.0	15.7	53.4
OCCUPATION						
Total experienced unemployed	4,164	4.8	100.0	50.1	15.3	34.7
White-collar workers	1,369	3.4	100.0	40.8	18.0	41.2
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	282	2.4	100.0	44.0	16.4	39.6
Managers and administrators, excluding farms	145	1.8	100.0	52.5	19.6	27.9
Sales workers	238	4.3	100.0	39.6	18.9	41.5
Clerical workers	704	4.7	100.0	37.6	17.9	44.5
Blue-collar workers	1,975	6.5	100.0	62.5	12.4	25.1
Craftsmen and kindred workers	482	4.3	100.0	68.7	11.1	20.1
Operatives, excluding transport	851	7.6	100.0	61.3	13.6	25.1
Transport equipment operatives	158	4.7	100.0	68.3	15.1	16.6
Nonfarm laborers	483	10.3	100.0	56.3	10.8	32.9
Service workers	737	6.3	100.0	34.8	18.6	46.6
Private household workers	60	4.0	100.0	32.1	12.3	55.5
Other service workers	677	6.6	100.0	35.1	19.1	45.8
Farm workers	83	2.6	100.0	42.2	8.7	49.2
Farmers and farm managers	3	.2	100.0	(1)	(1)	(1)
Farm laborers and foremen	80	5.4	100.0	43.0	8.4	48.6

[1] Percent not shown because the base is less than 35,000.

NOTE: The sum of items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

reflect an increase of .54 percentage point in the job-loser rate, and increases of .07, .26, and .13 percentage point, respectively, in the rates of job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants. The coefficients of X will sum to 1.0, since the rates by reason are simply components of the overall rate. Movements of job losers, therefore, accounted for over one-half of the change in total unemployment.

In terms of the distribution of the unemployed population, an increase of 1 percentage point in the aggregate unemployment rate would expand the proportion of unemployment due to job loss by 2.55 percentage points and would reduce the combined proportion made up of job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants by a like figure (equations 5–8). Conversely, a reduction in the unemployment rate would shrink the proportion of unemployment accounted for by job losers and would increase the job leavers' and entrants' proportions of total unemployment.

Since loss of job is the predominant and cyclically most sensitive reason for unemployment, selected regressions were run after disaggregating job losers by age, sex, occupation, and industry. Adult men are affected more than adult women by job loss stemming from changes in business activity (equations 9–11). The proportion of unemployment accounted for by job loss is much more closely related to changing economic conditions for blue-collar workers than for white-collar and service workers (equations 12–15). This greater job-loss sensitivity in the blue-collar occupations is seen by the larger coefficient of X, as well as the relatively high values of the coefficient of determination (r^2) of the equation for the blue-collar job losers. Similarly, with respect to industries, job loss within manufacturing, for example, is more responsive to economic conditions than in wholesale and retail trade and government. In large part, this is because the service-producing sector is growing at a rapid rate secularly vis-a-vis

the goods-producing sector, and further, because service industries are cyclically less sensitive.

Although economic conditions (as exemplified by the overall unemployment rate) have a significant role in explaining changes in unemployment because of job loss—as well as for the other reasons groups—the relatively small degree to which they do (low r^2) and the evidence that serial correlation may exist (low Durbin-Watson statistic) lead one to suspect the presence of other important factors and to question somewhat the specificity of the equations.[12] Such factors as education, labor force growth, and the occupational and industrial concentrations of the labor force also may be of consequence in explaining additional variation in unemployment by reason.

Job losers and insured unemployed

The reliability of the data on the number and percent of job losers can be tested by comparing them against available data on the number of unemployed that are covered by State insurance programs. Since the figures on the insured unemployed are based on claims filed almost exclusively by workers who have lost their last job, there should be a close correspondence between these two groups, both definitionally and numerically.[13] In 1972, there were approximately 2.1 million persons who had lost their jobs; the number of persons covered by State unemployment insurance was 1.8 million. Except in rare cases, persons in the other reasons categories are excluded from the insured unemployment count. However, since not all job losers are counted among the State-insured, care must be taken in interpreting the relationship between the two series.[14]

Results of simple linear regression analysis indicate that over the period 1967–72, a strong relationship did exist between the number of job losers and the number of State-insured unemployed. (See table 9.) Coefficients of determination (r^2) of the two series were .96 and .94 for unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data, respectively. That is, about 95 percent of the variation in the number of State-insured unemployed was associated with variations in estimated job-loser unemployment. Regressions were also run for men and women separately.[15] For men, the coefficient of determination was .94, for women .90.

It is clear, then, that there is a close relationship between the sample data on the number of job losers and the independently derived count of the State-insured unemployed, which has long been an important indicator of the economic health of the Nation.

Table 7. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by reason for unemployment, age, sex, and duration, annual average 1972

Age, sex, and duration of unemployment	Total unemployment		Job losers	Job leavers	Re-entrants	New entrants
	Number (in thousands)	Percent				
Total	4,840	100.0	43.2	13.1	29.8	13.9
Less than 5 weeks	2,223	100.0	34.6	14.4	35.0	15.9
5–14 weeks	1,458	100.0	44.2	13.0	38.7	14.2
15–26 weeks	597	100.0	56.1	11.1	22.3	10.4
27 weeks and over	562	100.0	60.3	10.3	20.3	8.9
Total, men, 20 years and over	1,928	100.0	62.6	12.7	21.6	3.1
Less than 5 weeks	713	100.0	56.9	15.4	24.4	3.2
5–14 weeks	606	100.0	62.0	12.4	22.6	3.1
15–26 weeks	298	100.0	69.8	10.1	17.4	2.7
27 weeks and over	311	100.0	70.1	10.0	17.4	2.7
Total, women, 20 years and over	1,610	100.0	39.4	16.3	39.4	49.1
Less than 5 weeks	780	100.0	29.0	16.7	48.6	5.6
5–14 weeks	463	100.0	42.3	17.3	35.4	4.8
15–26 weeks	180	100.0	55.6	15.0	46.7	6.1
27 weeks and over	188	100.0	59.6	12.2	23.4	4.3
Total, both sexes, 16–19 years	1,302	100.0	19.0	9.8	30.2	40.9
Less than 5 weeks	731	100.0	19.0	11.1	30.8	39.1
5–14 weeks	389	100.0	18.5	9.0	30.1	42.4
15–26 weeks	118	100.0	22.9	7.6	28.8	41.5
27 weeks and over	63	100.0	15.9	6.3	25.4	52.4

NOTE: Sum of individual items may not add to the totals because of rounding.

Summary

The classification of the unemployed by reasons for unemployment—that is, according to their status at the time they became unemployed—can have a significant impact upon manpower policy. It is a common misconception that unemployment is made up solely of persons who have lost their jobs. In fact, such persons constitute less than half the jobless total (43 percent in 1972). Job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants are also important components of unemployment. Job losers do account for the greatest percentage of unemployed adult men, but reentrants make up the largest portion of unemployed adult women while new entrants and re-

entrants account for the bulk of teenage unemployment.

Data on the reasons for unemployment provide the analyst with yet another basis for looking at the overall unemployment problem. Only 6 years of observations are now available, yet these statistics have already become popular with analysts, primarily because they emphasize the dichotomy between externally caused and self-motivated types of unemployment.

In many respects, this article represents only a cursory examination of a body of data worthy of more intensive quantitative study. In particular, the relationship between the types of unemployment (cyclical, frictional, and so forth) and the categories of reasons merits further investigation. □

Table 8. Regression results showing effect of total unemployment on selected categories of the unemployed, by reason, 1967–72

Dependent Y	Independent X	a	b	r^2	s	Durbin-Watson
(1) Job-loser unemployment rate	Total unemployment rate	−5.47 (3.34)	0.54 (15.53)	.79	3.19	1.02
(2) Job-leaver unemployment rate	Total unemployment rate	3.00 (7.86)	0.07 (8.14)	52	.74	1.14
(3) Reentrant unemployment rate	Total unemployment rate	2.35 (3.19)	0.26 (16.28)	80	1.43	1.57
(4) New entrant unemployment rate	Total unemployment rate	0.28 (0.26)	0.13 (5.75)	33	2.02	80
(5) Percent, job-loser unemployment	Total unemployment rate	30.75 (8.90)	2.55 (3.53)	.16	6.58	.95
(6) Percent, job-leaver unemployment	Total unemployment rate	20.05 (24.67)	−1.45 (8.13)	50	1.62	1.04
(7) Percent, reentrant unemployment	Total unemployment rate	36.31 (22.63)	−1.15 (3.35)	.15	3.12	1.65
(8) Percent, new entrant unemployment	Total unemployment rate	13.13 (12.88)	−0.06 (0.22)	.01	4.16	.78
(9) Percent job losers, men 20 years and over	Total unemployment rate	25.04 (9.44)	2.87 (5.06)	.28	5.16	.94
(10) Percent job losers, women 20 years and over	Total unemployment rate	53.68 (20.03)	1.92 (3.34)	.15	5.21	.96
(11) Percent job losers, both sexes, 16–19 years	Total unemployment rate	14.97 (5.84)	0.69 (1.25)	.03	4.99	1.13
(12) Percent job losers, blue-collar workers	Total unemployment rate	18.02 (6.81)	3.88 (6.86)	.42	5.15	1.65
(13) Percent job losers, white-collar workers	Total unemployment rate	49.62 (16.04)	2.55 (3.86)	.18	6.02	1.02
(14) Percent job losers, service workers	Total unemployment rate	22.67 (8.90)	2.04 (3.75)	.18	4.95	1.50
(15) Percent job losers, manufacturing	Total unemployment rate	43.87 (14.11)	3.88 (5.84)	.34	6.05	1.21
(16) Percent job losers, wholesale and retail trade	Total unemployment rate	24.23 (7.69)	2.73 (4.05)	.20	6.13	1.22
(17) Percent job losers, government	Total unemployment rate	28.51 (9.24)	0.61 (1.02)	.02	5.43	1.34

NOTE: t values are in parentheses.
These results are based on the regression equation $Y = a + bX$, where X represents the aggregate unemployment rate in all equations, b is its coefficient, and a is the constant term.

Table 9. Regression results showing effect of the number of job losers on the number of the State-insured unemployed, 1967–72

Dependent Y	Independent X	a	b	r^2	s	Durbin-Watson
(1) State-insured unemployed, total	Job losers, total	17.05 (4.41)	0.87 (37.77)	.96	11.12	.71
(2) State-insured unemployed, total	Job losers, total	22.93 (5.19)	0.83 (31.35)	.94	11.94	.85
(3) State-insured unemployed, men	Job losers, men	37.63 (1.31)	0.95 (32.88)	.94	9.05	.66
(4) State-insured unemployed, women	Job losers, women	15.12 (7.56)	0 96 (24.66)	.90	5.12	1.04

NOTE: t-values are in parentheses. These results are based on the regression equation $Y = a + bX$, where X represents the aggregate unemployment rate in all equations, b is its coefficient, and a is the constant term.
Equations (1) and (2) are for original and seasonally adjusted data, respectively. Equations (3) and (4) are for original data.

——FOOTNOTES——

[1] Economists disagree as to whether there are three or four main types of unemployment. Some prefer to think in terms of three categories, with seasonal unemployment included in each of them. Those who hold this view believe that the behavior of the cyclical, structural, and frictional unemployed is influenced also by seasonal factors.

[2] The following terms explain the composition of each of the groups of unemployed persons by reason: *Job losers*—unemployed persons who are either on temporary layoff of less than 30 days or on indefinite layoff of 30 days or more with no definite recall date, in addition to all other job losers who parted with their jobs involuntarily (including persons obliged to retire) and immediately began looking for work; *job leavers*—persons who quit or otherwise terminated their employment and immediately began looking for work (including voluntary retirees); *reentrants*—persons who previously worked at a full-time job lasting 2 weeks or longer but who later dropped out of the labor force for a period of time before looking again for work; and *new entrants*—persons who never worked at a full-time job lasting 2 weeks or longer.

[3] On six occasions between June 1964 and July 1966, the Current Population Survey included a supplement on reasons people look for work. The first two special surveys culminated in a study by Curtis L. Smith, Jr., "The Unemployed: Why They Started Looking for Work," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1965, pp. 1196–1203. Two additional studies were done by Kathryn D. Hoyle, making use of data through 1968. See her "Why the Unemployed Look for Work," *Monthly Labor Review*, February 1967, pp. 32–38, and "Job losers, leavers, and entrants," *Monthly Labor Review*, April 1969, pp. 24–29.

[4] Since the job-loser, job-leaver, entrant, and reentrant unemployment rates are calculated as a percent of the civilian labor force, their sum necessarily equals the total unemployment rate.

[5] The main drawback of the use of component rates is that each rate is really not a rate in and of itself. For a true unemployment rate, the numerator and denominator must consist of groups with like characteristics. For example, the "true" unemployment rate for job losers would be the number of job losers divided by the job-loser labor force, not the entire labor force. But the job–loser labor force does not exist; it has no meaning. Thus, the component rates, though an interesting and sometimes useful breakdown of the aggregate unemployment rate, is little more than a tautology. What has more meaning is the job-loser unemployment *rate* divided by the total unemployment *rate*, or—what amounts to the same thing—the percentage of the unemployed that are job losers.

[6] Though the increase in unemployment was spread among job losers, job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants, the substantial increase in the number of job losers overshadowed the changes in the other three groups. As a result, job losers' share of total unemployment increased while that of the other groups declined, despite actual increases in their unemployment rates and levels. In her February 1967 article, Hoyle found the opposite situation prevailing in the expansionary period, 1964–66. See "Why the Unemployed Look for Work," p. 33.

[7] In a close examination of quit rates in manufacturing, Armknecht and Early found that workers are very conscious of job security. Not only is a worker's confidence easily shaken during a business downturn, but it is restored with difficulty. Workers' assessments of security are often drawn from labor market conditions. The recent adverse developments in the market have had much to do with the decline in voluntary separations (job leaving) and the rise in unemployment due to job loss. See Paul A. Armknecht and John F. Early, "Quits in manufacturing: a study of their causes," *Monthly Labor Review*, November 1972, pp. 31–37.

[8] Statistics for members of Negro and other minority races—called "Negro and other races"—are used to indicate the situation for Negro workers. According to the 1970 census of population, Negroes constitute about 89 percent of this larger group.

[9] For obvious reasons, unemployed persons with no previous work experience (new entrants) are excluded from this discussion since they have no previous occupational or industrial attachment.

[10] Armknecht and Early, op. cit.

[11] Seasonally adjusted data were used for the aggregate unemployment rate and for the major series—total of job losers, job leavers, reentrants, and new entrants. To see if there was any trend in the series, a time variable was entered into the regression; in every case, however, this step proved insignificant and was, therefore, excluded from the equations.

[12] One reason for the relatively small effect of the aggregate unemployment rate is that workers who lose their jobs may become discouraged and withdraw from the labor force. Paul O. Flaim found that there is a close and positive relationship between changes in unemployment and in the number and proportion of workers who drop out of the labor force after losing their jobs. See his "Discouraged workers and changes in unemployment," *Monthly Labor Review*, March 1973, pp. 8–16.

[13] For a detailed study of State-insured unemployment and a preliminary investigation of the relationship between job losers and the State-insured unemployed, see Gloria P. Green, "Measuring total and State insured unemployment," *Monthly Labor Review*, March 1973, pp. 37–48.

[14] Some job losers do not file for unemployment insurance, while others have exhausted their benefits; still others may have been last employed in industries not covered by insurance.

[15] Unadjusted data were used in these calculations, in which job losers 20 years and over were regressed against the total State-insured unemployed. However, since only approximately 5 percent of the claimants were under 22, the two series can be considered comparable in this regard.

Appendix

This report contains, in addition to the article from the August 1973 issue of the Monthly Labor Review, the following supplementary tables:

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Supplementary tables

Table A. Unemployment rates 1/ by reason for unemployment, age, and sex, 1967-72

Age and sex	Total	Unemployment rates			
		Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
Both sexes, 16 years and over:					
1967	3.8	1.6	0.6	1.2	0.5
1968	3.6	1.3	.5	1.2	.5
1969	3.5	1.2	.5	1.2	.5
1970	4.9	2.2	.6	1.5	.6
1971	5.9	2.8	.7	1.8	.7
1972	5.6	2.4	.7	1.7	.8
Men, 20 years and over:					
1967	2.3	1.5	.4	.4	.1
1968	2.2	1.3	.4	.4	-
1969	2.1	1.2	.4	.5	.1
1970	3.5	2.3	.5	.7	.1
1971	4.4	2.9	.5	.9	.1
1972	4.0	2.5	.5	.9	.1
Women, 20 years and over:					
1967	4.2	1.6	.7	1.8	.2
1968	3.8	1.3	.6	1.6	.2
1969	3.7	1.2	.6	1.7	.2
1970	4.8	1.9	.8	1.9	.3
1971	5.7	2.4	.8	2.2	.2
1972	5.4	2.2	.9	2.1	.3
Both sexes, 16-19 years:					
1967	12.9	2.3	1.4	4.5	4.8
1968	12.7	1.9	1.5	4.2	4.8
1969	12.2	1.8	1.5	4.2	4.8
1970	15.2	2.8	1.7	5.2	5.4
1971	16.9	3.2	1.6	5.5	6.6
1972	16.2	3.1	1.6	4.9	6.6

1/ Unemployment rates are calculated as a percent of civilian labor force.

Table A-1. Unemployment rates by reason for unemployment, age, sex, and color, 1967-72 1/

Reason and color	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	Both sexes, 16 years and over						Men, 20 years and over					
White												
All unemployed	3.4	3.2	3.1	4.5	5.4	5.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	3.2	4.0	3.6
Job losers	1.4	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.4	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.6	2.5
On layoff	.5	.4	.4	.8	.8	.7	.4	.4	.4	.8	.8	.7
Other job losers	.9	.8	.7	1.3	1.7	1.6	.9	.8	.7	1.3	1.8	1.6
Job leavers	.5	.5	.5	.6	.6	.7	.3	.4	.3	.4	.5	.5
Entrants	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.2	2.1	.4	.5	.5	.7	.9	.9
Reentrants	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.5	.4	.4	.4	.6	.8	.8
New entrants	.4	.4	.4	.5	.7	.7	.1	-	-	.1	.1	.1
Negro and other races												
All unemployed	7.4	6.7	6.4	8.2	9.9	10.0	4.3	3.9	3.7	5.6	7.2	6.8
Job losers	2.8	2.5	2.3	3.3	4.2	4.0	2.7	2.6	2.2	3.8	4.7	4.1
On layoff	.7	.6	.6	1.0	1.1	.8	.7	.6	.6	1.1	1..	.8
Other job losers	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.3	3.1	3.2	2.1	1.9	1.6	2.6	3.3	3.3
Job leavers	1.1	1.0	.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	.7	.6	.5	.6	.8	.8
Entrants	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.8	4.6	4.9	.9	.8	.9	1.2	1.7	1.9
Reentrants	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.7	3.1	3.3	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.6
New entrants	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.6	.1	.1	.2	.2	.3	.3
	Women, 20 years and over						Both sexes, 16-19 years					
White												
All unemployed	3.8	3.4	3.4	4.4	5.3	4.9	11.3	11.0	10.7	13.5	15.1	14.2
Job losers	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.5	2.9	2.8
On layoff	.6	.5	.5	.8	.9	.6	.5	.5	.4	.7	.8	.7
Other job losers	.9	.7	.6	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.1
Job leavers	.6	.6	.6	.7	.7	.8	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.5
Entrants	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.1	8.1	8.1	7.9	9.3	10.7	9.9
Reentrants	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.1	1.9	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.5	4.7	4.1
New entrants	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	4.1	4.4	4.2	5.0	6.0	5.8
Negro and other races												
All unemployed	7.2	6.3	5.8	6.9	8.7	8.8	26.6	25.0	24.0	29.1	31.7	33.5
Job losers	2.5	2.1	1.9	2.4	3.3	3.3	4.7	3.9	3.7	4.9	4.7	5.6
On layoff	.7	.6	.5	.9	.8	.7	.6	.4	.5	1.0	.6	.6
Other job losers	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.5	2.6	4.1	3.5	3.2	3.9	4.1	5.0
Job leavers	1.2	1.0	.9	1.0	1.3	1.3	2.6	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.3	2.6
Entrants	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.4	4.0	4.2	19.3	17.1	17.6	21.0	24.8	25.3
Reentrants	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.9	3.5	3.5	8.9	8.6	8.8	11.1	11.8	11.7
New entrants	.6	.5	.4	.5	.5	.6	10.4	9.5	8.8	9.9	13.0	13.7

1/ See footnote 1, table A and footnote 1, table D.

Table B. Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment, age, and sex, 1967-72

Age and sex	Total unemployment		Percent distribution			
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
Both sexes, 16 years and over:						
1967	3,008	100.0	40.9	14.6	31.4	13.2
1968	2,817	100.0	38.0	15.3	32.3	14.4
1969	2,831	100.0	35.9	15.4	34.0	14.3
1970	4,088	100.0	44.3	13.5	29.9	12.1
1971	4,993	100.0	46.3	11.8	29.4	12.5
1972	4,840	100.0	44.2	13.1	29.8	13.9
Men, 20 years and over:						
1967	1,061	100.0	63.8	15.5	18.3	2.4
1968	993	100.0	60.3	16.8	20.6	2.2
1969	963	100.0	57.7	17.2	22.7	2.8
1970	1,636	100.0	65.0	12.9	19.4	2.7
1971	2,086	100.0	66.1	11.4	19.8	2.7
1972	1,928	100.0	62.6	12.7	21.9	3.1
Women, 20 years and over:						
1967	1,088	100.0	36.9	16.5	41.7	5.0
1968	985	100.0	34.6	17.0	42.8	5.6
1969	1,015	100.0	33.3	16.7	44.6	5.4
1970	1,347	100.0	40.6	15.8	39.3	4.3
1971	1,650	100.0	42.3	14.1	39.2	4.3
1972	1,610	100.0	39.4	16.2	39.4	4.9
Both sexes, 16-19 years:						
1967	859	100.0	17.6	10.9	34.6	36.9
1968	839	100.0	15.5	11.6	33.5	39.4
1969	853	100.0	15.8	12.5	34.3	37.3
1970	1,105	100.0	19.0	11.5	34.2	35.2
1971	1,258	100.0	18.9	9.6	32.4	39.0
1972	1,302	100.0	18.9	9.9	30.2	41.0

Table C. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by age, sex, by reason for unemployment, 1967-72

Age and sex	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Total unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men, 20 years and over	35.3	35.3	34.0	40.1	41.8	40.0
Women, 20 years and over	36.2	35.0	35.9	33.0	33.0	33.2
Both sexes, 16-19 years	28.6	29.8	30.1	27.0	25.2	26.9
Job losers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men, 20 years and over	55.2	56.0	54.7	58.9	59.8	57.8
Women, 20 years and over	32.6	31.9	32.9	30.1	30.1	30.2
Both sexes, 16-19 years	12.3	12.1	12.4	11.1	10.0	12.8
Job leavers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men, 20 years and over	37.7	38.7	37.6	38.1	40.4	38.0
Women, 20 years and over	40.9	38.7	39.2	39.0	39.9	41.3
Both sexes, 16-19 years	21.5	22.5	23.2	23.0	19.8	21.6
Reentrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men, 20 years and over	20.5	22.6	22.4	25.9	27.9	28.8
Women, 20 years and over	48.0	46.4	47.2	43.2	44.2	44.0
Both sexes, 16-19 years	27.9	30.9	30.5	30.9	27.9	27.2
New entrants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men, 20 years and over	6.3	5.4	6.5	8.7	8.9	8.8
Women, 20 years and over	13.6	13.5	13.3	11.5	11.3	11.8
Both sexes, 16-19 years	80.1	81.1	80.1	79.7	79.7	79.4

Table B. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by reason for unemployment, by detailed age and sex, 1967-72

Age and sex	Total unemployment		Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants	Total unemployment		Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
	Number (in thousands)	Percent					Number (in thousands)	Percent				
	1967 1/						1968					
Men												
16 years and over	1,521	100.0	51.2	14.4	23.4	11.0	1,419	100.0	48.1	15.4	25.2	11.3
16-19 years	460	100.0	21.9	11.7	35.4	31.1	427	100.0	19.8	12.0	35.8	32.3
16-17 years	249	100.0	13.5	7.3	35.1	44.1	234	100.0	13.5	6.2	35.4	44.9
18-19 years	212	100.0	31.7	16.9	35.7	15.7	193	100.0	27.4	19.1	36.3	17.2
20 years and over	1,061	100.0	63.8	15.5	18.3	2.4	993	100.0	60.3	16.8	20.6	2.2
20-24 years	238	100.0	43.2	21.4	28.2	7.2	258	100.0	41.6	20.9	30.8	6.6
25-34 years	218	100.0	67.5	17.4	14.4	.7	205	100.0	65.4	19.7	13.5	1.4
35-44 years	185	100.0	70.0	15.8	12.7	1.5	171	100.0	68.3	17.1	14.2	.4
45-54 years	198	100.0	73.4	12.7	12.2	1.7	165	100.0	68.6	16.1	14.8	.5
55-64 years	160	100.0	73.7	10.4	15.9	.0	132	100.0	72.0	9.0	18.6	.3
65 years and over	62	100.0	56.2	7.7	36.1	.0	61	100.0	52.9	7.8	40.2	.0
Women												
16 years and over	1,487	100.0	30.4	14.8	39.6	15.3	1,397	100.0	28.7	15.2	39.4	17.7
16-19 years	399	100.0	12.5	10.2	33.6	43.6	412	100.0	11.2	11.1	31.1	46.6
16-17 years	163	100.0	7.1	4.7	28.8	59.4	179	100.0	5.1	4.0	27.5	62.3
18-19 years	235	100.0	16.3	14.0	37.0	32.7	233	100.0	15.0	16.5	33.9	34.5
20 years and over	1,088	100.0	36.9	16.5	41.7	5.0	985	100.0	34.6	17.0	42.8	5.6
20-24 years	280	100.0	25.4	19.5	44.7	10.4	285	100.0	21.0	22.1	46.4	10.4
25-34 years	264	100.0	32.0	19.0	45.3	3.8	238	100.0	30.2	17.8	47.2	4.8
35-44 years	240	100.0	39.7	14.9	42.5	2.9	199	100.0	39.5	14.2	42.8	3.5
45-54 years	185	100.0	45.6	12.9	38.8	2.7	149	100.0	45.9	14.1	37.2	2.8
55-64 years	93	100.0	56.7	13.2	27.7	2.4	87	100.0	54.5	11.4	31.9	2.2
65 years and over	27	100.0	38.7	8.6	39.7	2.9	27	100.0	54.8	8.9	34.0	2.3
	1969						1970					
Men												
16 years and over	1,403	100.0	45.5	15.6	26.8	12.1	2,235	100.0	53.5	12.6	23.8	10.0
16-19 years	440	100.0	18.7	12.6	36.2	32.5	599	100.0	22.0	12.2	35.8	30.0
16-17 years	244	100.0	12.5	7.9	35.5	44.1	305	100.0	13.1	8.0	34.4	44.6
18-19 years	197	100.0	26.5	18.4	37.1	18.1	294	100.0	31.4	16.5	37.2	14.9
20 years and over	963	100.0	57.7	17.2	22.7	2.8	1,636	100.0	65.0	12.9	19.4	2.7
20-24 years	270	100.0	41.4	19.1	32.3	7.1	478	100.0	47.1	15.7	30.1	7.2
25-34 years	205	100.0	60.2	20.7	16.7	1.7	390	100.0	57.6	14.7	14.3	1.4
35-44 years	155	100.0	68.3	16.0	14.3	1.4	253	100.0	75.0	12.0	12.2	.8
45-54 years	157	100.0	67.8	16.5	14.5	.1	247	100.0	76.9	9.9	12.8	.4
55-64 years	127	100.0	65.3	11.6	22.9	.2	197	100.0	77.0	8.7	13.8	.5
65 years and over	48	100.0	49.7	8.4	41.7	.2	71	100.0	52.7	7.2	39.7	.3
Women												
16 years and over	1,428	100.0	26.5	15.2	41.3	17.0	1,853	100.0	33.0	14.4	37.5	15.0
16-19 years	412	100.0	10.6	11.1	32.7	45.6	506	100.0	13.5	10.5	32.5	43.6
16-17 years	192	100.0	5.3	6.4	27.9	60.4	231	100.0	8.4	6.1	27.2	58.3
18-19 years	220	100.0	15.2	15.2	36.9	32.7	275	100.0	17.7	14.1	36.9	31.2
20 years and over	1,015	100.0	33.3	16.7	44.6	5.4	1,347	100.0	40.6	15.8	39.3	4.3
20-24 years	290	100.0	23.6	20.5	45.3	10.5	386	100.0	25.9	21.4	44.8	7.9
25-34 years	247	100.0	27.7	18.4	49.5	4.3	326	100.0	34.4	16.5	45.5	3.6
35-44 years	203	100.0	34.8	14.7	47.3	3.1	262	100.0	46.4	13.3	37.4	2.8
45-54 years	163	100.0	44.2	14.2	38.6	3.0	229	100.0	53.2	11.9	33.0	2.0
55-64 years	89	100.0	49.4	12.1	35.5	2.9	111	100.0	64.0	10.3	22.9	2.9
65 years and over	24	100.0	46.4	7.8	44.1	1.7	33	100.0	54.1	12.2	31.4	2.3
	1971						1972					
Men												
16 years and over	2,776	100.0	55.6	10.9	23.1	10.4	2,635	100.0	52.2	12.1	24.2	11.6
16-19 years	691	100.0	22.8	9.7	33.7	33.7	707	100.0	23.8	10.4	31.1	34.7
16-17 years	345	100.0	13.0	5.1	33.9	47.9	355	100.0	13.8	5.9	31.1	49.1
18-19 years	346	100.0	22.7	14.2	33.6	19.6	352	100.0	33.8	14.9	31.2	20.1
20 years and over	2,086	100.0	66.1	11.4	19.8	2.7	1,928	100.0	62.6	12.7	21.6	3.1
20-24 years	635	100.0	46.9	13.9	32.7	6.5	619	100.0	44.6	15.7	32.5	7.3
25-34 years	508	100.0	60.3	13.5	14.5	1.7	456	100.0	66.8	15.3	16.1	1.7
35-44 years	319	100.0	79.1	10.6	9.6	.7	282	100.0	74.2	11.8	12.5	1.4
45-54 years	313	100.0	79.4	7.9	11.7	1.0	273	100.0	76.3	9.2	13.9	.6
55-64 years	239	100.0	78.7	7.1	14.2	.0	226	100.0	77.1	6.1	16.7	.1
65 years and over	71	100.0	56.2	6.4	37.5	.0	73	100.0	48.9	7.8	42.6	.6
Women												
16 years and over	2,217	100.0	34.8	12.8	37.2	15.3	2,205	100.0	32.4	14.4	36.6	16.7
16-19 years	567	100.0	13.1	8.8	31.1	47.1	595	100.0	13.2	9.3	29.0	48.5
16-17 years	249	100.0	6.9	4.4	24.0	64.6	274	100.0	7.0	4.9	23.9	64.2
18-19 years	318	100.0	18.0	12.1	36.6	33.3	321	100.0	18.4	13.1	33.4	35.1
20 years and over	1,650	100.0	42.3	14.1	39.2	4.3	1,610	100.0	39.4	16.2	39.4	4.9
20-24 years	486	100.0	29.8	17.9	43.4	8.9	497	100.0	27.8	20.4	42.2	9.6
25-34 years	416	100.0	38.0	15.7	43.6	2.7	405	100.0	35.2	17.2	44.2	3.4
35-44 years	310	100.0	46.5	11.7	39.6	2.3	293	100.0	43.7	14.6	39.2	2.5
45-54 years	260	100.0	54.3	11.0	32.1	2.4	237	100.0	41.7	12.0	33.5	2.7
55-64 years	141	100.0	61.8	10.0	25.9	2.3	140	100.0	59.4	10.4	27.5	2.8
65 years and over	38	100.0	56.5	6.7	36.4	.5	52	100.0	52.0	11.9	34.6	1.5

1/ Unemployment levels, and hence, percent distribution of the unemployed for 1967 differ somewhat from those published elsewhere. The first half of 1967 was the initial period for which data in this series were available on a regular monthly basis, and the procedures used in the Current Population Survey require several months of continuous data before the necessary statistical techniques exert their full effect.

Table E. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by reason for unemployment, by age, sex, and color, 1967-72 1/

Reason and color	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
	Both sexes, 16 years and over						Men, 20 years and over					
White												
All unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	41.7	38.1	36.1	45.0	47.3	44.0	63.9	59.2	57.3	64.6	66.5	62.9
On layoff	14.2	12.7	12.8	17.4	15.5	13.0	20.9	18.6	19.0	24.0	20.8	18.2
Other job losers	27.5	25.4	23.3	27.6	31.8	31.0	43.1	40.7	38.2	40.6	45.7	44.7
Job leavers	14.7	15.5	15.8	13.7	11.9	13.6	15.6	17.2	17.6	13.1	11.5	13.0
Entrants	43.7	46.4	48.1	41.3	40.9	42.4	20.5	23.5	25.2	22.3	22.0	24.1
Reentrants	31.3	32.3	33.9	29.4	28.9	29.1	18.2	21.3	22.7	19.8	19.7	21.2
New entrants	12.4	14.1	14.2	11.9	12.0	13.3	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.8
Negro and other races												
All unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	37.8	37.4	35.1	40.9	42.4	39.7	63.4	64.8	60.7	67.5	65.5	60.8
On layoff	8.9	8.7	8.8	12.5	11.3	7.7	15.5	16.2	16.7	20.4	19.5	12.4
Other job losers	28.9	28.7	26.3	28.4	31.1	32.0	47.9	48.6	44.0	47.2	46.0	48.4
Job leavers	14.2	14.5	13.9	12.3	11.2	11.4	15.5	14.5	14.3	11.3	10.9	11.2
Entrants	48.0	48.1	51.0	46.8	46.4	48.9	20.6	20.1	25.6	21.1	23.5	27.6
Reentrants	32.0	32.2	34.7	32.5	31.6	32.8	18.6	17.9	21.4	17.7	19.3	23.3
New entrants	16.0	15.9	16.2	14.3	14.8	16.1	2.1	1.7	4.2	3.4	4.3	4.3
	Women, 20 years and over						Both sexes, 16-19 years					
White												
All unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	37.6	34.8	32.9	41.6	43.1	39.8	17.5	15.5	14.6	18.4	19.4	19.6
On layoff	15.2	13.8	14.3	18.7	16.2	13.2	4.3	4.1	3.4	5.4	5.3	4.7
Other job losers	22.5	21.0	18.6	22.9	26.9	26.6	13.2	11.4	11.2	13.0	14.1	14.9
Job leavers	16.3	17.1	17.0	16.1	14.1	16.7	11.4	11.5	12.0	11.5	9.8	10.5
Entrants	46.1	48.2	50.1	42.2	42.9	43.6	71.1	73.0	73.4	70.0	70.8	69.9
Reentrants	41.8	43.2	45.0	38.5	39.0	39.2	34.9	33.2	33.9	33.2	31.4	28.9
New entrants	4.3	4.9	5.1	3.7	3.9	4.3	36.2	39.8	39.4	36.8	39.4	41.0
Negro and other races												
All unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job losers	34.2	34.1	33.0	35.3	39.0	38.1	17.8	15.7	15.5	16.9	13.5	16.7
On layoff	9.1	8.8	9.1	13.1	9.7	8.1	2.4	1.6	2.1	3.3	1.7	1.7
Other job losers	25.2	25.3	23.9	22.2	29.3	30.0	15.4	14.1	13.4	13.6	12.8	15.0
Job leavers	16.9	16.6	15.8	14.7	14.5	14.7	9.6	11.9	11.3	10.8	7.2	7.6
Entrants	49.2	49.3	51.2	50.0	48.5	47.3	72.6	72.4	73.2	72.3	78.2	75.7
Reentrants	41.3	41.9	44.0	42.9	40.5	40.2	33.5	34.5	36.5	38.2	37.2	34.8
New entrants	7.4	7.8	7.2	7.1	8.0	7.0	39.0	37.9	36.7	34.1	41.0	40.8

1/ See footnote 1, table D.

Table F. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by age, sex, and duration, by reason for unemployment, 1967 and 1972 annual averages

Age, sex, and duration	Total unemployment		Percent distribution				
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Less than 5 weeks	5 to 14 weeks	15 weeks and over	15 to 26 weeks	27 weeks and over
1967							
Both sexes, 16 years and over	3,008	100.0	55.2	30.0	14.9	9.0	5.9
Lost last job	1,229	100.0	49.7	31.8	18.5	11.5	7.1
Left last job	438	100.0	56.5	28.7	14.8	8.7	6.2
Reentered labor force	945	100.0	61.6	27.1	11.3	6.7	4.7
Never worked before	396	100.0	55.7	32.4	11.9	7.3	4.6
Men, 20 years and over	1,061	100.0	50.4	30.1	19.5	10.7	8.9
Lost last job	678	100.0	48.3	31.0	20.7	12.1	8.6
Left last job	165	100.0	53.7	29.9	16.5	8.5	7.9
Reentered labor force	194	100.0	56.0	26.4	17.6	8.3	9.3
Never worked before	25	100.0	50.0	29.2	20.8	4.2	16.7
Women, 20 years and over	1,088	100.0	56.3	29.6	14.1	9.0	5.1
Lost last job	401	100.0	48.0	34.3	17.8	12.0	5.8
Left last job	179	100.0	53.6	29.6	16.8	10.6	6.1
Reentered labor force	454	100.0	64.7	25.4	9.9	6.2	3.8
Never worked before	54	100.0	59.3	31.5	9.3	3.7	5.6
Both sexes, 16-19 years	859	100.0	59.6	30.3	10.1	7.0	3.1
Lost last job	151	100.0	60.1	29.4	10.5	6.5	3.9
Left last job	95	100.0	67.4	25.3	7.4	5.3	2.1
Reentered labor force	297	100.0	60.6	30.0	9.4	6.7	2.7
Never worked before	317	100.0	56.0	32.9	11.1	7.9	3.2
1972							
Both sexes, 16 years and over	4,840	100.0	45.9	30.1	23.9	12.3	11.6
Lost last job	2,089	100.0	36.9	30.8	32.2	16.0	16.2
Left last job	635	100.0	50.6	33.9	19.5	10.4	9.1
Reentered labor force	1,444	100.0	53.9	29.0	17.1	9.2	7.9
Never worked before	672	100.0	52.5	30.8	16.6	9.2	7.4
Men, 20 years and over	1,928	100.0	37.0	31.4	31.6	15.5	16.1
Lost last job	1,207	100.0	33.6	31.2	35.3	17.2	18.1
Left last job	249	100.0	44.9	30.6	24.5	12.2	12.3
Reentered labor force	416	100.0	41.8	32.9	25.5	12.5	13.0
Never worked before	59	100.0	39.0	32.2	28.9	13.6	15.3
Women, 20 years and over	1,610	100.0	48.4	28.8	22.9	11.2	11.7
Lost last job	635	100.0	35.6	30.9	33.5	15.8	17.6
Left last job	262	100.0	49.6	30.5	19.1	10.3	8.8
Reentered labor force	635	100.0	59.7	25.8	14.3	7.4	6.9
Never worked before	79	100.0	55.7	25.3	16.4	6.3	10.1
Both sexes, 16-19 years	1,302	100.0	56.1	29.0	13.9	9.1	4.8
Lost last job	247	100.0	56.3	29.1	14.9	10.9	4.0
Left last job	128	100.0	63.3	27.3	10.1	7.0	3.1
Reentered labor force	393	100.0	57.3	29.8	12.8	8.7	4.1
Never worked before	533	100.0	53.7	31.0	15.4	9.2	6.2

Table G. Percent distribution of unemployed persons by reason for unemployment and duration, 1967-72

Duration	Total unemployment		Percent distribution			
	Number (in thousands)	Percent	Job losers	Job leavers	Reentrants	New entrants
1967: Total	3,008	100.0	40.9	14.6	31.4	13.2
Less than 5 weeks	1,660	100.0	36.8	14.9	35.1	13.3
5-14 weeks	901	100.0	43.4	14.0	28.4	14.2
15-26 weeks	271	100.0	52.0	14.0	23.2	10.7
27 weeks and over	176	100.0	49.4	15.3	25.0	10.2
1968: Total	2,817	100.0	38.0	15.3	32.3	14.4
Less than 5 weeks	1,594	100.0	33.1	16.1	35.3	15.5
5-14 weeks	811	100.0	41.4	13.8	30.7	13.9
15-26 weeks	256	100.0	50.4	14.1	23.4	11.7
27 weeks and over	156	100.0	48.7	16.7	23.7	10.9
1969: Total	2,831	100.0	35.9	13.0	34.1	14.6
Less than 5 weeks	1,629	100.0	31.6	16.2	36.9	15.3
5-14 weeks	827	100.0	39.2	14.6	30.8	15.4
15-26 weeks	242	100.0	49.6	13.2	27.7	9.9
27 weeks and over	133	100.0	44.4	14.3	31.6	9.8
1970: Total	4,088	100.0	44.3	13.4	33.0	12.3
Less than 5 weeks	2,137	100.0	37.8	14.7	34.1	13.4
5-14 weeks	1,289	100.0	48.7	12.1	27.2	11.9
15-26 weeks	427	100.0	56.7	11.0	22.0	10.3
27 weeks and over	235	100.0	56.2	13.2	22.6	8.1
1971: Total	4,993	100.0	46.3	11.8	29.4	12.6
Less than 5 weeks	2,234	100.0	37.6	12.2	35.5	14.6
5-14 weeks	1,577	100.0	47.9	12.1	27.5	12.6
15-26 weeks	665	100.0	58.8	11.4	20.9	8.9
27 weeks and over	517	100.3	62.9	9.5	19.3	8.3
1972: Total	4,840	100.0	43.2	13.1	29.8	13.9
Less than 5 weeks	2,223	100.0	34.6	14.4	35.0	15.9
5-14 weeks	1,458	100.0	44.2	13.0	28.7	14.2
15-26 weeks	597	100.0	56.1	11.1	22.3	10.4
27 weeks and over	562	100.0	60.3	10.3	20.3	8.9

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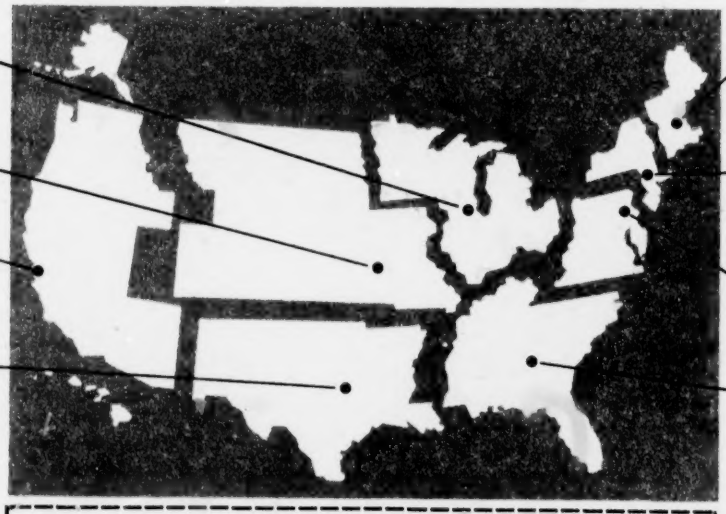

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